

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: PAPANDREOU MAKES LACKLUSTER INAUGURAL

1. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU OFFICIALLY OPENED PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT'S (PASOK) NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AT PATRAS IN A TWO-HOUR PUBLIC RALLY SUNDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 20. ACCORDING EMBASSY OBSERVERS, ABOUT 12,000 PERSONS ATTENDED OF WHICH ABOUT 3,000 WERE BUSSED TO DOWNTOWN PATRAS FROM SURROUNDING VILLAGES, CORINTHIAN GULF TOWNS, AND ATHENS. IN SERIES OF SUNDAY AFTERNOON APPEARANCES EN ROUTE TO PATRAS, PAPANDREOU DREW ABOUT 1,000 IN CORINTH, 3,000 IN AGEION, AND FEW HUNDREDS IN SMALLER TOWNS.

2. IN HIS SPEECH PAPANDREOU REPEATED AND EMBELLISHED ANTI-JUNTA PLATFORM, "AMERICANS OUT" SLOGAN, AND SOCIALIST GOALS FOR GREECE. MELINA MERCOURI LED CHEER SECTION OF ABOUT 1,000 YOUNGSTERS. OBSERVERS NOTED RALLY BEGAN AND ENDED PROMPTLY. PAPANDREOU SPECIFICALLY URGED THAT ALL AMERICAN MILITARY BASES SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM GREECE AND THAT GREECE SHOULD WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM NATO. PAPANDREOU ACCUSED CARAMANLIS OF LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR RETURN OF MONARCHY AND THAT PM THROUGH CABINET EMERGING FROM UPCOMING ELECTIONS WOULD SANCTION PARTITION OF

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CYPRUS. PASOK'S LEADER SAID HE FAVORED RETURN OF ARCHBISHOP

MAKARIOS AND REMOVAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM ISLAND.

3. PAPANDREOU'S FIRST MAJOR GESTURE AS NATIONAL CANDIDATE SHOWED GOOD ORGANIZATION BUT IMPACT NOT IMPRESSIVE. GIVEN TRADITIONAL PULLING POWER OF PAPANDREOU NAME IN PATRAS AND CORINTH, TURNOUT WAS THIN (ALTHOUGH BBC REPORTED 30,000 AND ANDREAS' CIRCLES 50,000). STRIKE AGAINST MOST NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS LIMITED PRESS COVERAGE OF EVENT. NATIONAL RADIO/TV CARRIED COMMENTATOR'S SUMMARY OCTOBER 21 AND FOLLOWING DAY EVENING TV NEWS IN REPORTAGE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS FEATURED TWO MINUTES OF PAPANDREOU ADDRESSING CROWD AGAINST CHORUS OF CHANTING AGAINST NATO, U.S., GREEK JUNTA AND IMPERIALISM.

4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MIKIS THEODORAKIS IN LETTER PUBLISHED OCTOBER 20 IN AVGHI HIGHLIGHTED ONE OF ANDREAS' POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES AS A POLITICAL MAGNET. THEODORAKIS SAID PASOK IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT UPON DRAWING VOTES FROM LEFT AND MISTAKINGLY RETAINS THE "MEDIATOR MENTALITY" OF THE OLD CENTER UNION PARTY UNDER GEORGE PAPANDREOU. INDEPENDENT MARXIST THEODORAKIS ADDED THAT LEFT IS NOW OPEN, LEGAL AND CAPABLE OF REGISTERING ALL THE VOTES OF THOSE WHOSE SYMPATHIES ARE GENUINELY WITH THE LEFT. THERE IS, IN EFFECT, LITTLE ROOM FOR PASOK. BY CONTRAST, HE SAID CARAMANLIS, AS THE LEADER OF THE RIGHT-CENTER NOW SOLIDLY BASED ON ANTI-JUNTA MENTALITY INSTEAD OF ANTI-COMMUNISM, HAS OPENED A GENUINE AND IMPORTANT DIALOGUE WITH THE LEFT.
KUBISCH

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